

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 11, 2003

TENNESSEE’S WHEAT YIELDS RISE ABOVE LAST YEAR

Tennessee’s 2003 average winter wheat yields are expected to reach 52 bushels per acre, 6 bushels better than a year ago, according to a recent survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Total production is forecast at 14.0 million bushels, 2 percent above the 2002 total. Acres for harvest as grain are forecast at 270,000, down 30,000 acres from last year and the smallest acreage since 1985. Planting of the State’s 430,000 acres of winter wheat got underway by the first week of October 2002. Growers struggled to wrap up fall seedings as wet weather hindered the amount of acreage sown. Severe thunderstorms, heavy rains, hail, and wind during May provided less than ideal conditions for the crop’s development, causing moderate to severe damage to some of the State’s acreage. The crop recovered from the adverse weather and, by month’s end, over half of the acreage was rated in good-to-excellent condition. Producers were also able to minimize the effects of disease brought about by persistent rains with timely fungicide applications. As of July 7, winter wheat harvest neared completion with progress running behind the normal pace and the latest harvest since 1997.

U.S. WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION

Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.72 billion bushels, up 6 percent from last month and 50 percent above 2002. The U.S. yield is forecast at 47.0 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from last month. Hard Red Winter, at 1.09 billion bushels, is up 9 percent from a month ago. White Winter production is up 2 percent from last month and now totals 259 million bushels. Soft Red Winter, at 366 million bushels, is down 1 percent from the last forecast.

WINTER WHEAT: TENNESSEE, SURROUNDING STATES, AND U.S., JULY 1, 2003 WITH COMPARISONS ¹

State	Acreage Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels	
Arkansas	840	580	46.0	50.0	38,640	29,000
Georgia	200	230	41.0	44.0	8,200	10,120
Kentucky	340	300	53.0	59.0	18,020	17,700
Mississippi	205	125	44.0	48.0	9,020	6,000
Missouri	760	780	45.0	58.0	34,200	45,240
North Carolina	480	420	42.0	37.0	20,160	15,540
<u>TENNESSEE</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>46.0</u>	<u>52.0</u>	<u>13,800</u>	<u>14,040</u>
Virginia	170	165	63.0	53.0	10,710	8,745
United States	29,651	36,491	38.5	47.0	1,142,802	1,715,912

¹ 2003 forecast, 2002 final.

TENNESSEE PEACH CROP DOWN 12 PERCENT FROM 2002

As of July1, Tennessee’s 2003 peach crop is forecast at 3.5 million pounds, down 12 percent from last year and the smallest production since 2000. The State’s peach crop survived the winter months in good condition with only light freeze damage to some orchards. However, wet weather and hail damage during the spring hindered the crop’s development.

U.S. PEACH PRODUCTION FORECAST

The July 2003 forecast of U.S. peach production is 2.62 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2002 and 8 percent above two years ago. Nineteen states forecast increases in production from last year, while 7 states expect declines and 3 states remain unchanged.

